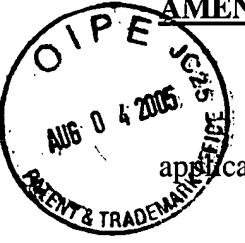


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A connection system comprising:

first and second pipes for flowing a fluid;

one of said first and second pipes having a female fitting in fluid communication with the one pipe, said fitting having straight, non-tapered female threads;

~~another~~ the other of said first and second pipes having a male fitting in fluid communication with said ~~another~~ other pipe, said male fitting having an external straight, non-tapered thread and a cylindrical section extending spaced axially from said external thread;

said male fitting being receivable in the female fitting with the male and female threads engageable with one another to connect the fittings to one another;

a cylindrical gasket between said male and female fittings and spaced axially from the male and female threads upon connecting the fittings to one another;

the male cylindrical section and the female fitting engaging said gasket when the fittings are connected to one another to seal the fittings to one another thereby to establish fluid communication therebetween.

2. (Original) A system according to Claim 1 wherein said fittings, when connected to one another by said threads, are rotatable relative to one another while maintaining the gasket in sealing relation between the male and female fitting.

Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

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3. (Currently amended) A system according to Claim 1 wherein said fittings are formed of a cast metal material.

4. (Original) A system according to Claim 1 wherein said female fitting has an opening adjacent one end for receiving the male fitting, the gasket being located on the female fitting on a side of the female threads remote from the opening.

5. (Original) A system according to Claim 4 wherein said male fitting has an opening on one end for communicating the fluid between the first and second pipes, the male thread being located on the male fitting an axial distance from the male fitting opening at least equal to an axial distance between the gasket and a first of the female threads adjacent the female fitting opening thereby enabling the cylindrical section of the male fitting to seal within said gasket of the female fitting upon initial threading engagement of the male and female threads with one another.

6. (Original) A system according to Claim 1 including a stop carried by said male fitting precluding full threading of the male fitting into the female fitting.

7. (Currently amended) A system according to Claim 1 wherein said one pipe includes a main fluid flow line, said ~~another~~ other pipe including a lateral line in connection with said main fluid flow line and having an elbow terminating in said male fitting, said female fitting projecting from the main flow line, said male fitting being received in said female fitting with said lateral line in a predetermined angular orientation relative to said main flow line.

8. (Original) A system according to Claim 7 wherein said fittings are formed of a cast material.

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9. (Original) A system according to Claim 7 wherein said female fitting has an opening adjacent one end for receiving the male fitting, the gasket being located in the female fitting on a side of the female threads remote from the opening.

10. (Currently amended) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said male fitting has an opening on one end for communicating the fluid between the first and second pipes, the male ~~threads~~ thread being located on the male fitting an axial distance from the male fitting opening at least equal to an axial distance between the gasket and a first of the female threads adjacent the female fitting opening thereby enabling the cylindrical section of the male fitting to seal within said gasket of the female fitting upon initial threading engagement of the male and female threads with one another.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A system according to Claim 1 wherein said female fitting comprises a saddle secured to and in communication with said one pipe.